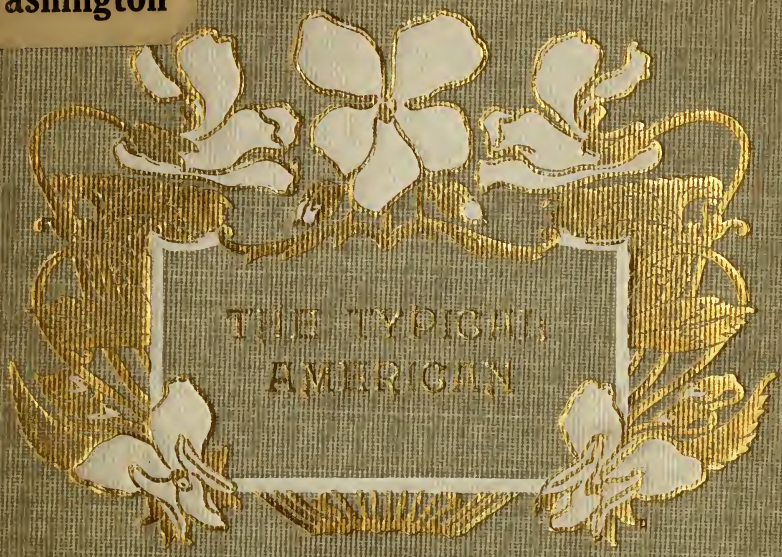
Washington



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THE HERO SERIES

THE TYPICAL AMERICAN

BY

CHARLES EDWARD LOCKE

Author of "FREEDOM'S NEXT WAR FOR HUMANITY"

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The Typical American

"While Washington's a watchword, such as ne'er
Shall sink while there's an echo left to air."

—Byron.

"There is scarcely a man whose name is connected with the early colonization of North America that is not noble and memorable. There was the brilliant and unhappy Raleigh. There was Captain John Smith, a man with the soul of a Crusader. There was William Penn, ever acting in the spirit of his own conviction that the weak, the just, the pious, the devout are all of one religion. There was Bradford, the stern governor. There was Oglethorpe, with 'his strong benevolence of soul.' There was the hero of the Indian Wars, Miles Standish. There was Roger Williams, the founder of Providence. There were Winthrop and Endicott, the worthy founders of worthy lines." —Farrar.

"I was born an American; I live an American; I shall die an American." —Webster.

The Typical American

HAVING the need in the Nation of men good and true to fight our country's battles and solve our country's problems, let us stop long enough to contemplate the career of an ideal American citizen. Mazzini, in his brilliant address to the young men of Italy, said: "Love, love and venerate the ideal. The ideal is the Word of God."

It has often been asked, "What made Washington great?" After the centennial of the death of Washington, we are viewing the "father of his country" through a perspective of one hundred years. It has been said that some of his contemporaries were at a loss to account for the greatness of Washington; it is because the world does not know its greatest men. Seven cities contend for Homer dead, through which the living Homer begged his bread. By a cruel irony of fate, a stupid humanity has persecuted and despised and denounced and killed those truly

great men whom a succeeding generation has sainted and adored and deified. This was less true of Washington than of many who have served their fellow-men.

"Of all great men, Washington was the most virtuous," says Guizot; and Green, who was associated with brilliant actors in the history of nations, declares: "No nobler figure ever stood in the forefront of a nation's life." Washington Irving writes: "The character of Washington possesses fewer inequalities and a rarer union of virtues than perhaps ever fell to the lot of one man." It was a generous encomium that fell from the lips of that great Englishman, Lord Brougham: "It will be the duty of the historian and sage in all ages to let no occasion pass of commemorating this illustrious man." And long ago we have made Daniel Webster's words our own: "America has furnished to the world the character of Washington. If our American institutions had done nothing else, that alone would have entitled them to the respect of mankind."

Yes, Washington was a great man! He was a strong, brave, modest, righteous, unswerving, and absolutely uncompromising nobleman. He was a well-bred, well-trained, courteous Christian chevalier and gentleman. He was great, not by

caprice or accident or environment, but because of the nobility of his superb character. Such a man is destined to be great whenever he appears. Such men make epochs; if the age is not ready for them, they build their own environment and do their work. We agree with Phillips Brooks, "The more we see of events, the less we come to believe in any fate or destiny except the destiny of character."

The towering grandeur of Washington was not the result of circumstances especially fortuitous. He was not hurried to an eminence of fame by inexorable fate. He was what he was, and accomplished what he did because of his honor, his fitness, his industry, and his piety; in one word, because of his character. Characters like his can not be suppressed; they challenge attention, and invariably achieve. It is not one Washington in a hundred years that the Nation needs, but a hundred Washingtons in one year!

The character of Washington was the product of two conspicuous qualities. The first was his love of country. Washington had a genius for patriotism. He was a brave soldier, and became a masterful strategist. Frederick the Great pronounced his generalship on the Delaware as "the most brilliant achievement recorded in

military annals," and, in sending a sword to Washington, inscribed the following extraordinary words: "From the oldest general in Europe to the greatest general in the world." Washington was a statesman, an intuitive statesman. He had the prophetic sense, and was a man of profound wisdom. Patrick Henry, when asked who was the greatest man in the First Continental Congress, said: "If you speak of solid information and sound judgment, Colonel Washington was unquestionably the greatest man on that floor."

Washington was a statesman with a prophetic instinct. All great statesmen must be seers. Washington was a seer. That serious countenance, those serene eyes looked into the future with marvelously clear vision. He participated in the framing of those memorable documents that were forwarded by the First Continental Congress to England, and of which Lord Chatham declared in Parliament: "When your lordships look at the papers transmitted to us from America, when you consider their decency, firmness, and wisdom, you can not but respect their cause, and wish to make it your own. For myself, I must declare and avow that in all my reading and observation—and it has been my favorite study: I have read Thucydides and have

studied and admired the master statesmen of the world—that for solidity of reasoning, force of sagacity, and wisdom of conclusion, under such a complication of difficult circumstances, no nation or body of men can stand in preference to the General Congress at Philadelphia."

A study of Washington's State papers as President of the United States further reveals his character as an astute and far-seeing statesman. His Farewell Address is compact with wise counsels to his wide constituency, and is one of the freshest and most apropos discussions to be studied by those who are bearing the burdens of government in these days of our expanding opportunities as a Nation. It is easy for us to agree with Bancroft that "but for Washington the country could not have achieved its independence; but for him it could not have formed its union; and now but for him it could not set the Government in successful motion."

The other quality that entered into the colossal strength of Washington's character was his devotion to God. He was a man of prayer. From the carnage of Braddock's field to his farewell words to the people of the Nation, his dependence and faith in God were often expressed. He was an active and consistent Churchman. After Braddock's defeat and death,

Washington wrote to his brother that in this fearful battle he had four bullet-holes in his coat and two horses were shot under him, but "by the all-powerful dispensations of Providence I have been protected beyond all human probability or expectation." At the First Continental Congress, while others stood when the chaplain led in prayer, he knelt. At Valley Forge he won the victory first on his knees under the trees. In his first Inaugural Address he solemnly declares: "No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the Invisible Hand which conducts the affairs of men more than the people of the United States. Every step by which they have advanced to the character of an independent Nation seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency." In those memorable utterances, before seeking for the last time the quiet seclusion of his Mount Vernon home, he spoke like an Isaiah when he said: "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle. Can it be that Providence has not

connected the permanent felicity of a nation with its virtue?"

The Father of His Country received his early training from his devoted mother. He was a mother-made man. It was her loving remonstrance which prevented him from becoming a midshipman in his boyhood, and her counsels and prayers and love sustained him in his manhood. He nobly recognized her influence when he said, "All I am I owe to my mother!" Yonder glistening monument, as it leans against the eastern sky, is a beautiful memorial to a mother's infinite patience and perfect love! It is Washington's monument—Mary Washington's monument! His father having died when Washington was but a lad of eleven years, his entire training was received from his mother. How faithfully she discharged that solemn trust must be read in the radiant pages of our Republic's history. Mary Washington gathered her children about her, and prayed with them. She read to them daily from the Bible, and made them familiar with the helpful utterances of great writers. When God would make a great man, he gives him first a great mother! All good mothers are great mothers! Your mother, noble princess, perhaps unknown beyond the humble home and narrow circle of a few admiring friends, was a

great mother, and, though unknown to fame, wears a royal diadem jeweled by God's own artificers, because she gave to the Father her best service, and taught her family to give to God their truest love. If a generation of mothers was necessary for Napoleon's hysterical empire, mothers, devoted mothers, mothers like Mary Washington, are absolute and indispensable factors in our Republic. In a Government "of the people, for the people, by the people," the mothers hold the destiny of the Nation in their control; "the hand that rocks the cradle moves the world;" the mothers are the country's statesmen!

Washington combined religion and patriotism in an unsullied character that shall grow brighter and be better appreciated with increasing ages.

He was an imperial republican, who had sublime faith in a democracy, and who could spurn the suggestion to make himself a king. He was great because he was not ambitious—because he recognized the Divine guidance. He was a God-man—a believer in the Deityship of Jesus Christ, on whom a mighty epoch was turning.

With George Washington contrast the career of the brief, brilliant, delusive Bonaparte. In his early life Napoleon seemed to be religious.

I have indulged the thought that the great Corsican came into the drama of human history to promote its highest purposes. The most ardent imagination can not dream of the vast progress which might have been made for civilization if Napoleon had followed his God as humbly and obediently in Europe as did Washington in America. But Napoleon broke with God, and languished in exile. "Napoleon victor at Waterloo did not harmonize with the law of the nineteenth century." Men can not long successfully combat the Divine purpose in the age in which they live. The weapons of his early triumphs became soon the instruments of his disastrous defeat, and Napoleon is now but a pathetic episode in the history of a century.

But Washington, unlike his daring contemporary, heard the Divine voice and was true to the higher call. He recognized his dependency upon his God, and, forgetting himself, sought to obey his Maker and fulfill the plans of the Father of Nations so far as those purposes involved man's little enterprises; and Washington has won for himself imperishable fame that will increase in brightness until all things finite shall blend their glory into the radiance of the Infinite. From the lofty altitude of a stainless life, surrounded with the love and gratitude of a mighty

people, with the serene words, "It is well," falling from his lips, Washington was translated.

In the language of Winthrop at the laying of the corner-stone of the Washington monument: "The Republic may perish; the wide arch of our raised union may fall; star by star its glories may expire; stone after stone its columns and its capitol may molder and crumble; all other names which adorn its annals may be forgotten; but as long as human hearts shall anywhere pant, or human tongue shall anywhere plead for a sure, rational, constitutional liberty, those hearts shall enshrine the memory and those tongues shall prolong the fame of George Washington."

"High poised example of great duties done,
Modest, yet firm as nature's self; unblamed,
Saved by the men his noble temper shamed,
Broad-minded, high souled, there is but one
Who was all this and ours and all men's—Washington."

Let us go to his tomb at Mount Vernon; a holy shrine for patriots to offer themselves in full consecration to the service of their God and their country. He was "first in peace, first in war, and first in the hearts of his countrymen." And with such a noble example will we not be

ready to answer God's command and our country's call?

"All must own the fatherhood of him,
Whose glory time can never dim,
All who can reckon Freedom's worth,
Would write across this whole broad earth,
With pen dipped in the sun,
The magic name of Washington."

America's New Mission and Opportunity

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"The sword, after all, is but a hideous flash in the darkness; right is an eternal ray." —Victor Hugo.

"I do not know why, in the year 1899, this Republic has unexpectedly had placed before it mighty problems which it must face and meet. They have come and are here, and they could not be kept away. Many who were impatient for the conflict a year ago, apparently heedless of its larger results, are the first to cry out against the far-reaching consequences of their own acts. Those of us who dreaded war most, and whose every effort was directed to prevent it, had fears of new and grave problems which might follow its inauguration. The evolution of events, which no man could control, has brought these problems upon us. The Philippines, like Cuba and Porto Rico, were intrusted to our hands by the providence of God. It is a trust we have not sought. It is a trust from which we will not flinch."

—McKinley.

"America is only another name for opportunity. It is God's final effort in behalf of the human race."

—Emerson.

America's New Mission and Opportunity

WE must hasten to wage an internal war against vice and oppression, for already the God of nations is sending America forth upon a new mission, and thrusting new responsibilities upon Church and State.

Imbued with the sublime idea of liberty, our forefathers left their native land and braved the dangers of a turbulent sea and met the attacks of frenzied savages. Then followed the Colonial and Constitutional periods. War might have been avoided if it had not been for a stupid king and an imbecile foreign policy. The long Revolutionary struggle resulted in the permanent establishment of the foundations of liberty upon the shores of this new country.

Then there came the internal strife, the spirit of liberty demanding universal acceptance in the Nation. It was the application to ourselves of the same principle, for the recognition of which

by the mother country we had successfully fought a great war. In this so-called "land of the free and home of the brave" there must be unity and solidarity. Shall we proclaim ourselves free to the world, and inconsistently permit the institution of human slavery to disgrace and befoul the Republic? Shall America, after gaining a great victory for liberty over a foreign country, suffer disintegration and decline, because of internal disease which it was not able to expel or resist? The war of the sixties was, therefore, the logical sequence of the landing of the *Mayflower*.

During the four decades that have passed since the surrender at Appomattox, our Nation has been busy developing the superstructures of liberty and inculcating the broadest principles of freedom; and, satisfied with our own broad land, we did not dream of any larger mission. Suddenly we found ourselves in the new rôle of defender and propagator of liberty. Until two years since our obligations were bounded by two great oceans, and we did not conceive it to be our duty to spread the mystic influence of freedom beyond the borders of our own possessions. But when, a few months ago, there came from a beleaguered people, hardly a hundred miles off our Eastern coast, a pleading cry, "Come over

and help us;" and when it was known that thousands of human beings were dying of starvation on account of the cruelty and incompetency of an emasculated government, after days of hesitancy and wondering whether the Stars and Stripes had any right to interfere, America gallantly leaped the narrow dividing sea, and, as a defender of liberty brought freedom to an abused and grateful people. It was a war for humanity, and introduced America to its new part in the drama of nations as a propagandist of liberty. The fervent utterances of Henry Clay are as appropriate to present obligations as if they were spoken yesterday: "I am no propagandist. I would not seek to force upon other nations our principles and our liberty if they do not want them. But if an abused and oppressed people will their freedom; if they seek to establish it, we have a right as a sovereign power to notice the fact, and to act as circumstances and our interests require. I will say in the language of the venerated Father of my Country: 'Born in a land of liberty, my anxious recollections, my sympathetic feelings, and my best wishes are irresistibly excited whensoever in any country I see an oppressed nation unfurl the banner of freedom.' "

The victory in the war with Spain thrust new and unexpected burdens and privileges upon us

as a Nation. As a natural sequence of the war, as logical as the war itself, there came into our possession the archipelago of the Pacific Ocean. The acquisition of the Philippines, with their eight millions of semi-pagan population, seemed a part of the war for humanity. Dewey's remarkable victory was anticipated. Spain had shown herself unworthy and unable to give a sufficient government to these islands; and there was nothing left for our country but to become the guardians of these neglected and oppressed people. As we receive the honors of that brief war, so we should not be unwilling to carry the burdens which that victory has laid upon our shoulders.

As exponents of liberty we have always believed in expanding our territory. During the Administration of President Jefferson, at an expenditure of $15,000,000, that vast area then known as Louisiana, that is bounded by the Mississippi and the Gulf, and reaching to the Rockies on the west and to British America on the north, was purchased. Later, Florida and California and Oregon and Alaska were also acquired. We have been expansionists from the beginning; it is the genius of our Republic because it is the genius of growth. Whatever has life expands; the blade, the stalk, the oak; and if

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nations enjoy healthful growth, they must expand by the very laws of their being. In 1800 Spain owned nearly all of this hemisphere; but in 1901 not a foot of land did she possess. The last jewel to slip from her palsied hand was the pearl of the Antilles. Spain is contracting, and not expanding, because she has long since ceased to be a growing nation. President Grant once reverently said: "I do not share in the apprehension of many persons as to the danger of governments becoming weakened and destroyed by reason of their extension of territory. Commerce, education, and rapid transit of thought and matter by telegraph and steam have changed all this. Rather do I believe that our own Great Maker is preparing the world, in his own good time, to become one nation, speaking one language; and then armies and navies will be no longer required."

In our rôle as a propagator of liberty we can not be indifferent to "the world's wrongs, the world's woes, and the world's wars." Wherever there are people struggling for their inherent rights, there it will be our duty and privilege to offer the encouragement of a Nation every step of whose progress has been contested by the opponents of personal and national liberty. Our duty is to give to Cuba protection and independ-

ence. To Cuba and the Philippines must be taken our schools, our laws, our national opportunities, and all the privileges and care which the Stars and Stripes may be able to afford oppressed peoples.

And, furthermore, America's war for humanity has won for her a conspicuous place in the counsels of nations. In the bewildering crisis into which the world is now coming, the solution of the perplexing problems will be more easy and possible, because of the unique relationship of the United States of America to the allied Powers of Europe. The Philippines are only six hundred miles from the Asiatic coast. America has come "into the kingdom for such a time as this," and her constitutional and traditional policy of national rights and personal freedom will speed the day of universal peace.

If it shall be objected that the white man can not live in the tropics, and hence America has no call of duty to the inhabitants of the distant archipelago, it will be necessary only to quote from the experiences of that very renowned naturalist, Alfred Russell Wallace, who has spent may years under the equator: "The fact is that white men can live and work anywhere in the tropics, if they are obliged; and unless they are obliged, they will not, as a rule, work even in the

most temperate regions. The most conclusive example is that of Queensland, the climate of which is completely tropical; yet white men work in every part of it. The scores of varied industries of a civilized community are carried on by white workmen without any difficulty, and with no special effect on their general health. This case really settles the question."

The obligations which have been thrust upon the Church are even more important than those which have come to the State. In the Philippines are eight millions of people speaking thirty-five dialects, who need to be educated, Christianized, and made homogeneous. These multitudes have been cruelly victimized by sacerdotal despotism and official rapacity. Upon investigation it is being found that Cuba was no more viciously and inhumanly treated than have been the inhabitants of the Philippine Archipelago. These millions are waiting to learn of a kind of Christianity which ennobles manhood, which honors and protects pure womanhood, which opens schools and cares for the sick and poor, and which transforms the multitudes into happy, refined, law-abiding communities. The Christian Church should pour its money and send armies of consecrated teachers into these beautiful islands, and reclaim a people who have

been cursed by mediæval tyranny and corrupt ecclesiasticism.

We adopt as our own the eloquent words of President McKinley: "No imperial designs lurk in the American mind. They are alien to American sentiment, thought, and purpose. Our priceless principles undergo no change under a tropical sun. They go with the flag. If we can benefit these remote peoples, who will object? If in the years of the future they are established in government under law and liberty, who will regret our perils and sacrifices? Who will not rejoice in our heroism and humanity? Always perils, and always after them safety; always darkness and clouds, but always shining through them the light and the sunshine. Always cost and sacrifice, but always after them the fruition of liberty, education, and civilization. I have no light or knowledge not common to my countrymen. I do not prophesy. The present is all-absorbing to me; but I can't bound my vision by the bloodstained trenches around Manila, where every red drop, whether from the veins of an American soldier or a misguided Filipino, is anguish to my heart; but by the broad range of future years, when that group of islands, under the impulse of the year just past, shall have become the gems and glories of those tropical seas,

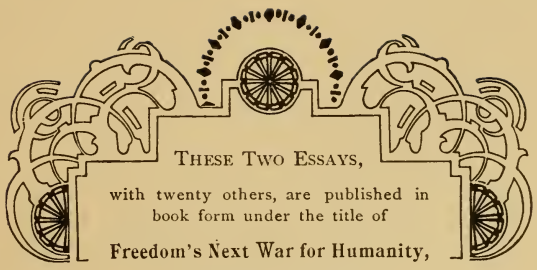
a land of plenty and of increasing possibilities, a people redeemed from savage indolence and habits, devoted to the arts of peace, in touch with the commerce and trade of all nations, enjoying the blessings of freedom, of civil and religious liberty, of education and of homes, and whose children and children's children shall for ages hence bless the American Republic because it emancipated and redeemed their fatherland, and set them in the pathway of the world's best civilization."

If Church and State, working independently, but each under the guidance of the God of Nations, will assume these new obligations and prove faithful to these great responsibilities, blessings will come to the world which it is not in the power of other nations to bestow; and God will greatly magnify our Republic and strengthen our borders.

Expansion is not necessarily imperialism. Our duty to the world is to proclaim liberty, to give to all the inhabitants thereof our gospel of freedom; to teach men how to govern themselves. And so soon, under our tutelage, as the Cuban and the Tagal shall be fitted for self-government, our America shall surprise the grasping nations of the world by her magnanimous treatment of her temporary colonists. The

God of Nations has called us to this mighty task, and the progeny of the Pilgrim Fathers will not be recreant to the great trusts which they have inherited.

"For we
Who scarce yet see
Wisely to rule ourselves, are set
Where ways have met
To lead the waiting nations on!
Not for our own
Land now are freedom's flags unfurled,
But for the world."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Freedom's Next War for Humanity,
By Charles Edward Locke.

FREEDOM'S NEXT WAR FOR HUMANITY

By Charles Edward Locke

IN his introductory chapter, the author states the purpose of his discussions. After referring to America in her new rôle of propagator and defender of liberty, and to the recent victories won by the Stars and Stripes for oppressed humanity, he says:

"As we have fought a war for humanity, for peoples of other blood and language, so if our Nation shall be perpetuated we shall be compelled to wage a war for the oppressed and victimized portions of our own citizenship. . . . While, therefore, as a Nation, we are providentially led to assist struggling peoples in their contention for their personal rights, we must not be unmindful of paramount interests at home, which if neglected will speedily shorten our career as propagators of liberty, and exhibit the American Republic to the world as a pitiable spectacle—a Nation which could save others, but which could not save itself."

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